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Fifth Committee
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Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Recognizing that the outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium, while ensuring that such resources are adequate for the fulfilment of the objectives, programmes and activities of the Organization, as mandated by the relevant legislative bodies of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2014-2015[1] and the recommendations contained in the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

[1] A/67/529 and Corr.1.
[2] A/67/625.

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3. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

4. *Expresses* its full respect for the authority and the prerogatives of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the Organization;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General not to take any measures that do not respect the prerogatives of the General Assembly;

6. *Reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

7. *Also reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(a) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

8. *Stresses* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, when preparing the budget, to carefully evaluate and consider the entire quantum of resources necessary to carry out the programmes and activities mandated by the General Assembly and other organs;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of 5,392,672,400 United States dollars at revised 2012-2013 rates;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when making proposals for savings in the programme budget, to ensure the fair, equitable and non-selective treatment of all budget sections;

12. *Decides* that the priorities for the biennium 2014-2015 shall be the following:

(a) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(b) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 12 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015;

14. *Recognizes* the need for measures to improve the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, with a view to strengthening its effectiveness in dealing with political, economic and social issues;

15. *Recognizes*, furthermore, that efforts to achieve savings and the efficient utilization of resources constitute an ongoing process and should not adversely affect the full implementation of mandated programmes and activities;

16. *Notes* that the budget proposal will reflect the benefit of further reviews of possible obsolete activities, additional cost-effective measures and simplified procedures, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to rigorously pursue this in accordance with regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[3] and established practices;

17. *Reiterates* its request contained in paragraph 15 of its resolution 65/262, and requests the Secretary-General to include a summary of initiatives aimed at improving cost-effectiveness as well as information on the resources actually or expected to be freed up by their implementation;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his proposed programme budget for 2014-2015, proposals stemming from a comprehensive review of the staffing requirements for the Organization, to ensure that staffing reflects best practices and is appropriate to effectively implement mandates;

19. *Stresses* that the contingency fund should be used in strict accordance with paragraph 9 of annex I to resolution 41/213 and paragraph 3 of section C of the annex to resolution 42/211;

20. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely, at 40,445,043 United States dollars, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate, and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

[3] ST/SGB/2000/8.